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CLAIMS:

1. A topical formulation for the treatment of a dermatological condition which comprises a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic, immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; characterized in that it further comprises a permeation modulator and the permeation modulator and the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or macrolide or the pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof are present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.
2. A formulation according to claim 1 comprising up to 10% by weight of the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or the immunosuppressive macrolide or analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; the permeation modulator being present at 1 to 60% by weight.
3. A formulation according to either claim 1 or 2 wherein the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic is selected from erythromycin, azithromycin or clarithromycin.
4. A formulation according to either claim 1 or 2 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is selected from sirolimus, FK506 or SDZ ASM 981.
5. A formulation according to any preceding claim wherein the permeation modulator is an alkanoic acid or alkenic acid.
6. A formulation according to claim 5 wherein the alkanoic acid or alkenic acid is selected from capric acid, octanoic acid, oleic acid or acids of intermediate chain length.

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7. A formulation according to any preceding claim wherein the dermatological condition is selected from psoriasis, alopecia, eczema dermatitis, lichen planus, lupus erthematosus, pyoderma gangrenosum, vitiligo, graft versus host disease, pustular skin infections, bacterial skin infections or acne vulgaris.

8. A formulation according to claim 7 wherein the dermatological condition is eczema dermatitis and the concentration of macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or immunosuppressive macrolide is 0.05% to 2% by weight.

9. A formulation according to any preceding claim wherein the permeation modulator is used in conjunction with a solvent system.

10. A formulation according to claim 9 wherein the solvent system comprises an aromatic alcohol or a biologically acceptable benzene derivative, with or without an admixture of monoglycerides and/or a fatty acid ester.

11. A formulation according to either claim 9 or 10 wherein the permeation modulator comprises capric acid and the solvent system comprises benzyl alcohol.

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12. A formulation according to any of claims 8 to 11 wherein the concentration of the solvent system is 5% to 90% by weight.

30 13. A formulation according to any preceding claim further comprising a thickening agent.

14. A formulation according to claim 13 wherein the

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thickening agent is selected from white soft paraffin, cetostearyl alcohol, yellow soft paraffin, cetyl alcohol, steryl alcohol, divalent carboxylic acid soaps and carnauber wax.

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15. A topical formulation for the treatment of a dermatological condition which comprises an immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; characterized in that it further 10 comprises a permeation modulator; and the permeation modulator and the macrolide or the pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof are present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.

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16. A formulation according to either claim 15 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is selected from sirolimus, FK506 or SDZ ASM 981.

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17. A formulation according to claim 16 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is sirolimus.

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18. The use in the manufacture of a topical composition for the treatment of a dermatological condition of a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or an immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof characterised in that it further comprises a permeation modulator and the permeation modulator; the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or the immunosuppressive 30 macrolide or pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof being present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.

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19. The use of claim 18 wherein the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or immunosuppressive macrolide is present at up to 10% by weight of the composition.

5 20. The use of an immunosuppressant macrolide, a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or a pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof in the preparation of a topical formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17.

10 21. A method for the treatment of a disease of the skin or mucosa which comprises applying thereto a topical composition comprising a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or an immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; characterised in
15 that it further comprises a permeation modulator; and the permeation modulator, the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or the immunosuppressive macrolide or pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof is present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is
20 applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or immunosuppressive macrolide is present at up to 10% by weight of the composition.

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23. A method according to claim 21 or 22 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is utilized.

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